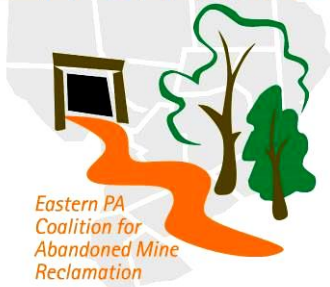


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes, Executive Director

101 South Main Street

Ashley, PA 18706

Phone: (570) 371-3523

E-mail: rhughes@epcamr.org

Website: www.epcamr.org

March 2015 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Continued glazing pinch pots at Greater Nanticoke Elementary with the 4th & 5th grade classes several days this month as a part of the **AMD & Pottery Art EE** program using our iron oxide glaze developed by EPCAMR called Cherry Blossom; Provided GNA Principal, *Dr. Scott*, with additional clearances from other Staff and interns who will be participating with the project; Coordinated with *Paul Golias*, Staff Correspondent for the Citizen's Voice who covered a story on the project and sent a photographer into the classroom to highlight our efforts with GNA; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/students-get-lesson-rich-in-art-and-local-history-1.1851870>
- Interviewed by *Elizabeth Skrapits* from the Citizens' Voice for a follow up article on the Penn East Pipeline proposed project crossing the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley; Photographed for the article after showing details of the underground mine maps in 3D using EarthVision; <http://citizensvoice.com/news/river-concerns-surface-about-pipeline-1.1845246>
- Provided *Gwen Harleman* from Verve Vertu with our EPCAMR Display and iron oxide pigment to initially set up for the Grand Opening of the **"From Diamonds to Rust"** Art Show where artists with various disabilities will be showcasing their works of art using EPCAMR's iron oxide pigment recycled from AMD impacted streams; Attended the Grand Opening and manned the EPCAMR exhibit and talked with the artists and merchants who showed up to support the arts and the artists; *Bob Heim*, a cartoonist is interested in drawing and color in works of art with our iron oxide pigment; Coordinated an EPCAMR Field Trip to the studio with PA DCNR and the Luzerne and Lackawanna Valley High Schools that are participating in the *Community Connections to our Watershed EE Program* along with an *AMD Watershed Tour of the Wyoming and Southern Wyoming Valley*; Finalized an agenda with *Diane Madl*
- Attended a meeting with State Representative *Aaron Kaufer*, Luzerne, PA, at his request to inform him of environmental issues within his legislative district; Provided him with a letter outlining issues, projects, and proposed projects within his legislative district to keep him up to speed on the progress of things that are being coordinated by EPCAMR and to continue to have his support of our efforts
- Participated in a Choose Clean Water Coalition (CCWC) Conference Call to discuss EPCAMR's comments submitted on the Penn East Pipeline proposed project; Informed by Johnathan West, AECOM, that FERC concluded it's formal scoping process and they are now working to identify and address all potential environmental and engineering issues as they refine the preferred alternative route; They met with PA DEP BAMR at EPCAMR's suggestion to pull maps for the area where they proposed to cross the mining impacted area and have them in their possession and will be evaluating them and following up with PA DEP BAMR directly
- Reviewed the final draft budget for the USEPA EE Local Grants Program entitled, **"Iron Oxide & Art: Exploring NEPA's Polluted Watersheds through Outdoor Learning"** with Gabby and Liz prior to preparing to submit the grant application; Submitted the application which was validated and received by Grants.gov

- EPCAMR's Executive Director appeared in an blog in the Huffington Post written by Professor Marianne E. Krasny, Department of Natural Resources, Director of the Civic Ecology Lab at Cornell University on "Nature's Do-Gooders"; <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marianne-krasny/natures-dogooders-what-difference-do-they-make-b-6827606.html>
- Continued working with *Louise Tuner Chawla* on our draft Chapter entitled, "*Restoring Orange Waters to Blue: A Legacy of Experiences that Inspire Environmental and Community Reclamation*"
- Submitted an e-mail communication with *Senator Casey* and *Toomey's* Offices about a "Dear Colleague Letter" that is circulating from Senator *Ben Cardin's* Office related to the cuts for the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program in the President's FY16 Budget; Encouraged both Senators to join other Senators the Chesapeake Bay watershed in supporting full funding for Bay related programs
- Hosted a meeting of Larson Design Group's Environmental Team led by *Britton Burnworth*, at the EPCAMR office to see if we can partner on future projects and submissions of grant applications
- Requested by the Luzerne County Community College to be their Earth Day Guest Speaker hosted by the Science Club on April 22nd, 2015 to do a regional update on EPCAMR activities through the region and the importance of volunteerism in Non-Profits and in Local Communities
- Sought an update on Project Learning Tree Facilitators and recertification workshops in PA from *Martha Moore*, who coordinates the workshops for PAEE and PLT
- Gathering comments from partners and Staff on the Set Aside Guidelines to see if we can put enough information together to submit comments to the State

Technical Assistance

- Attended a meeting of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society with several board members to help them develop a budget and project narrative for the upcoming phases of construction and reclamation on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park site in Ashley, PA and an operating budget for the Society; Met with a donor from California, who would like to remain anonymous, who donated to both the Huber Breaker Preservation Society and EPCAMR's online fundraising campaign efforts
- Participated in a conference call with OSM on the further development and updating of the Title IV AML Standards
- Provided Richard Simon, MountainTop, PA with information about past logging on his property near Boyle's Pond and adjacent to SGL for mining timbers in the Valley's coal mines; Encouraged him to follow up with the MountainTop Historical Society; www.mtn-top-hs.org
- Attended a meeting at City Hall, Wilkes-Barre, PA at the request of the Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, *Tom Leighton*, and State Senator *Yudichak's* Office to provide those in attendance with details on the Solomon Creek Watershed and to discuss the failing retaining walls in S. Wilkes-Barre
- Met with *John Ackerman*, Twin Oaks Consulting, LLC to discuss a future partnership with his consultant company on an AMD treatment²⁰⁷ technology he's developing
- Created an updated regional GIS map of the 6 PAEE Regions by County with *Kelsey* for the PAEE Board at the request of the PAEE President, *Ed McCrea* and provided it to the Regional Directors

- *Emily Krafjack*, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association asked if EPCAMR could scan a map with wells noted on it for archival purposes; As soon as she can obtain the map, she'll provide it to *Rusty Bennett* to get it to us for scanning
- Provided *Sergio Viera*, a journalist from Brazil who was researching information on AMD and came across our website and found it full of information that was useful; Exchanged information with him on projects and information on AMD; He was looking for activities for youth and activities for mobile phones and other digital tools to try and integrate the environment with youth and technology; He is developing projects with Sao Paulo City Hall and would provide us with follow up on his projects once completed
- Downloaded a free version of Google Earth Pro; <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2015/01/google-earth-pro-is-now-free.html>
- Coordinated with *Cliff Denholm*, Stream Restoration Inc. to conduct an AMD sampling snapshot of AMD Treatment Systems in Eastern PA; EPCAMR Staff to assist in the sampling over the Summer 2015
- Continued measuring the flow at the Askam AMD borehole on EC property and provided the results to SRBC's *Tom Clark* in order for him to determine the best time to conduct the rhodamine test to obtain a residency time of the AMD in the Maelstrom Oxidizer AMD Treatment System
- Obtained a copy of the *Greater Wyoming Valley Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan* from PEC NE Office and had it forwarded to *Elizabeth W. Hughes*, EdD, Director of Communication for EC
- Provided EPCAMR Staff with a link to a copy of a new resource called "**Green Infrastructure Opportunities that Arise During Municipal Operations**"; The document presents examples and case studies of how integrating green infrastructure methods can enhance retrofits and maintenance projects and provide other multiple community benefits; http://epa.gov/owow/ocpd/green_infrastructure_roadshow.pdf
- Provided EPCAMR Staff with a presentation on rain barrel construction; http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Rain_Barrels-How_to_Build_Your_Own_And_How_To_Host_A_Workshop.pdf
- Working with *Marty Gilgallon*, PA Tectonics, Inc. to come up with a day to sample mine pool water at various elevations for TDS and other parameters with EPCAMR's Kemmerer Bottle within several boreholes in the Scranton-Metro Mine Pool
- Offered LRCA administrative assistance and project assistance when our newest Summer interns come on board in the late Spring, early Summer; *Haley Giannone* and *Mallory Pinkowski*
- Followed up with PA DOT's *Dave Rinehimer*, to see if he can figure out if there is a waiver that EPCAMR could secure to allow PA Tectonics to work with us as a consultant on the patch work that needs to be completed on the Loomis Borehole on the Sans Souci Highway, just outside of Nanticoke, in Hanover Township
- Submitted information on EPCAMR Resources and Data Available related to underground abandoned mines, AMD, and mine pools, for the FEMA Risk Map Data Discovery effort to *Nikki Roberts*, FEMA;

Project Coordination

- Met with *Rusty Bennett*, Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association to provide him with a **\$500** check for the limestone dosing of the N. Branch of the Mehoopany Creek that was awarded to the group under our **EPCAMR/ARIPPA AMD/AML Mini-Grant Program**
- Worked on reviewing project progress on the **Lewis Mine AMD Rehabilitation Project**, Sullivan County, PA and mailed checks to Hedin Environmental for work performed on the project as a consultant; Requested an update on the bid package preparation
- Set the public meeting date for the **Laurel Run Coldwater Heritage Assessment Plan** development for April 16th at the Bear Creek Neighborhood Facilities Building, Bear Creek, PA from 6-8PM; Provided Liz with *Jim Smith's* information on the utilization of the Facilities Building; Informed *Samantha Kutskel*, Program Coordinator that we would follow up with notes after the meeting since she had a conflict and was not able to attend; Informed all of the municipalities of the grant award and invited them to the first public meeting; Mike created a large scale watershed map of the Mill Creek Watershed that included the Laurel Run sub-watershed highlighted and outlined for the public meeting using a Topographic USGS map as the base map
- Ordered and received 4 Simmons 2MP IR Trail Cameras from Gander Mountain for future placement at locations where illegal dumping is prevalent with a **\$200** donation from Pollock Enterprises, Inc.; EPCAMR will decide on the placement of the cameras at illegal dumping hot spots in the region; Ordered a YSI Multi-Parameter Probe/Meter for sampling

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- Participated in the monthly conference call to coordinate the **17th Annual PA AMR Conference** with the Planning Committee; Communicated with *Jennifer Brooks-Stahl*, Conference Coordinator at the Ramada Inn about our contract; Abstracts continue to roll in before the April 1st deadline for review and consideration; Working with various photographers for framed photos for the Conference for the silent auction; Prepared a Contribution Letter for any vendors who might be interested in contributing to our Silent Auction; Requested a basket from Safelite Auto Glass; Reported to the PA AMR Conference Committee the list of silent auction items collected to date from EPCAMR Staff; Requested copies of **Finding the Green** from the Growing Greener Coalition's Executive Director *Andrew Heath* and received an electronic version of it from *Beverly Braverman*, Mountain Watershed Association; Informed by *Glenn Florence*, PA DEP, that the funding for the PA AMR Conference will remain available for several years; Requested a quote from Cole Transportation for the Field Tour; Made some suggestions to ARIPPA to increase Golf Tournament revenue; Updated the www.treatminewater.com; Registrations are starting to trickle in online; Informed that Acting PA DEP Sec. *John Quigley* cannot attend as a Keynote Speaker for the Conference; PA Anthracite Section SME became a \$500 Bronze Sponsor of the Conference
- Attended the **PAEE 2015 Conference** at the Raystown Lake Resort, Entriken, PA as a presenter, member of the Community of Learners Leadership Team, and Board member to talk about the State of EE in PA; Reviewed the draft Annual Work Plan for PAEE prior to attending the Conference; Participated in an EE Capacity conference call to review the EE Capacity Strategic Plan that was revealed at the PAEE Conference
- Submitted an EPCAMR presentation to the **2015 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress** due to inability to attend the Congress on March 14th, due to an illness and inability to speak; Submitted a presenter log of preparations for the Congress and time spent on preparing the presentation;
[http://www.delawariverkeep.org/resources/Reports/Rewriting What We Know About Eastern Pennsylvanias Mine Pools.pdf](http://www.delawariverkeep.org/resources/Reports/Rewriting%20What%20We%20Know%20About%20Eastern%20Pennsylvanias%20Mine%20Pools.pdf)
- Developing an AMD Tour at the request of the **Mining & Reclamation Advisory Board** with Duane Feagley, Executive Director of the PA Anthracite Council, to AMD and AML sites in Schuylkill County; Coordinated with Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Keystone Anthracite, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, and the Schuylkill Conservation District to come up with the sites to visit in July 2015; Received a Powerpoint Presentation in the mail on CD from *Bill Reichert* to burn, copy, and provide to the MRAB

- Requested scholarship applications to attend the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference in May 2015

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Lake Graboski*, Berwick, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Volunteer and has an interest in Catawissa Creek, the Lehigh River, and Briar Creek; EPCAMR Executive Director to follow up with him
- Met with *Shari Kantor*, who is interested in working with EPCAMR's iron oxide to create some art pieces; She is also going to be donating a small art piece for our PA AMR Conference in June 2015; www.spkcreative.com

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciled EPCAMR's Checking Accounts and PA Invest Accounts; Completed bi-weekly Payroll Reporting and submitted to RJ Zagrapan and filed reports
- Conducted our monthly EPCAMR Staff Meeting
- Attended an Executive Management Series Workshop at Penn-State Wilkes-Barre, Lehman, PA
- Received comments back from the Growing Greener Grant Center on previously submitted grants that were not funded in order for EPCAMR to make improvements on the applications for future rounds of funding
- Received communications from *Lori Groody*, PA DCED, Office of Business Financing on EPCAMR's EITC application which has been assigned to an analyst on Staff for their review; EPCAMR will hear back in 60 days with their decision on renewing our Educational Improvement Organization designation that will allow us to receive donations from businesses, banks, corporations, and other donors who can receive tax credits for their donation
- Continued to push out EPCAMR's GiveGab online fundraising campaign to raise **\$10,000** with the support of the Staff and the EPCAMR Board to purchase necessary equipment and supplies to further our work in the region that will continue to provide quality technical assistance to our constituents within the region; GiveGab was going to provide some matching funds as a part of the March Madness through the end of March dollar for dollar; <http://gvqb.co/EPCAMR>
- Completed the mid-term evaluations for *Amanda Hamstra* and *Jessica Johnson*, King's College seniors who are Watershed Outreach Specialist Interns for EPCAMR; Forwarded them to *Kelly Lettieri*, Internship Coordinator for King's College
- Received a resume from *Alexander J. Cottone*, Gettysburg College, PA who is pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in GIS; Will review and follow up with an interview in the Summer for a potential internship or volunteer opportunities
- Completed a post Urban EE PLC survey online for EECapacity
- Introduced to *Aaron Hovan*, Tunkhannock, PA who is an environmental attorney, by *Chris Beeman*, GiveGab; Interested in a board position with EPCAMR; Invited him to a future Board Meeting of EPCAMR
- Met with *Joe Stefaniak*, who was interested in getting some updates on the Huber Miner's Memorial Park Reclamation and EPCAMR's Environmental Education and Outreach Campaign, and a donor to EPCAMR and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society
- Completed January 2015 Progress Report and forwarded to Mike until we are ready to submit our reimbursements on a quarterly basis to the PA DEP 319 Program